

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-25 and 32-48. New claims 45-48 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, 18-25, 32-37 and 40-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ito (EP 0898378) in view of Youngs et al. (US 6,600,918). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Ito describes a wireless information communication method and device. In one embodiment, shown in Fig. 18 (cited by the Examiner), an acoustic receiver device 70 receives music data from a PHS base station and transmits the music data to vehicle-loaded acoustic equipment provided in a car ([0126]). The vehicle-loaded acoustic equipment includes a display unit 71, a main unit 72 with a navigation device and receiver, and speakers 73R and 73L ([0127]). The acoustic receiver device transmits the music data to the radio receiver in the form of an FM signal ([0128]). An infrared ray receiving unit 77 in the acoustic receiver device 70 may receive control data via an infrared ray from a remote controller 74 (see Fig. 19 and paragraphs [130] and [134]).

This arrangement is said to permit the remote controller to control the acoustic receiver device, as well as the vehicle-loaded acoustic equipment ([130]). It is clear from the description, however, that the remote controller does not interact with the vehicle-loaded acoustic equipment directly, but rather controls the PHS acoustic receiver device, which in turn passes FM signals to the vehicle-loaded acoustic equipment. This mode of operation is described explicitly in paragraph [138] and may be inferred from the separate arrows in Fig. 18 that connect remote controller 74 to receiver device 70 and connect the receiver device to main unit 72 of the acoustic equipment.

Youngs describes a method and system for providing transmission of selected media programs to a wireless subscriber. The wireless handset receives and plays the media programs (abstract). Youngs does not relate in any way to interaction between a wireless handset and an in-vehicle audio system.

Claim 1 recites apparatus for in-vehicle provision of audio content to a listener, comprising a cellular telephone and an in-vehicle audio system, which is adapted to be fixedly installed in a vehicle. The cellular telephone receives broadcast radio content

over a wireless network and passes the content to the in-vehicle audio system. A user of the apparatus may select the broadcast radio content by inputting at least one detail to the in-vehicle audio system, which then transmits the detail to the cellular telephone.

Ito neither teaches nor suggests transmission of information from an audio system that is fixedly installed in a vehicle to a cellular telephone, as required by claim 1. As explained above, Ito describes transmission only in the opposite direction, from a wireless telephone to the vehicle-loaded equipment. In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner appears to have identified Ito's remote controller 74 as part of the in-vehicle audio system. As pointed out above, however, Ito's remote controller communicates only with his PHS telephone. Therefore, this remote controller cannot reasonably be considered a part of the in-vehicle audio system recited in claim 1. Furthermore, claim 1 explicitly states that the audio system is fixedly installed in the vehicle, and this limitation cannot possibly apply to a remote controller that is not fixedly attached to anything (as shown in Ito's Fig. 18).

Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 1, dependent claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 9-15 are also believed to be patentable.

Independent claim 18 recites apparatus for storing user radio station preferences, comprising a cellular telephone and an in-vehicle audio system. The in-vehicle audio system is adapted to be fixedly installed in a vehicle and to play broadcast radio content. This audio system is also adapted to receive, from a user, at least one identification detail regarding a radio station preferred by the user, and to transmit the detail to the cellular telephone for storage therein. Claim 18 thus includes the same distinguishing limitations as claim 1: transmission of information from an audio system that is fixedly installed in a vehicle to a cellular telephone.

As explained above in reference to claim 1, Ito and Youngs neither teach nor suggest these limitations. Therefore, claim 18 is also believed to be patentable over these references. In view of the patentability of claim 18, dependent claims 19-22 are believed to be patentable, as well.

Claims 23-25, 32-37 and 40-44 recite methods for in-vehicle provision of audio content and storing user radio station preference, based on principles similar to the apparatus of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15 and 18-22. Therefore, for the reasons explained above, claims 23-25, 32-37 and 40-44 are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

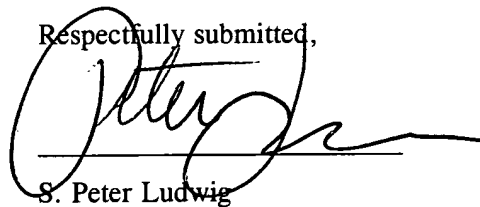
Dependent claims 16, 17, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ito in view of Young and further in view of Witkowski (US 2002/0197955) or Chen (US 6,134,456). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. In view of the patentability of independent claims 1 and 23, from which these claims depend, claims 16, 17, 38 and 39 are also believed to be patentable.

Applicant has added new claims 45-48 in order to recite an additional patentable feature of the present invention. These claims depend respective from independent claims 1, 18, 23 and 40, and add the limitation that the in-vehicle audio system comprises a radio receiver installed in the vehicle with a button on its front panel, which is pressed by the user in order to provide an input to the cellular telephone. The language of these claims is supported in the specification of the present patent application by the picture of button 50 on the radio receiver in Fig. 1B and by the explanation on page 13, lines 25-30. The cited art neither teaches nor suggests the possible use of such a button on a radio receiver that is fixedly installed in a vehicle for conveying information to a cellular telephone. Therefore, new claims 45-48 are believed to be independently patentable.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peter Ludwig', is written over a horizontal line.

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